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## Ex-CIA analyst at libel trial says experts were deceptive on Vietnam

NEW YORK (AP) — Military and civilian intelligence experts "tried to fool the American public" about enemy strength in the Vietnam war but ended up "fooling ourselves," former CIA analyst Sam Adams testified yesterday at retired Gen. William C. Westmoreland's libel trial.

Mr. Adams, who spent more than a decade trying to prove that the military deliberately painted a false, rosy picture about American prospects in the war, said he was proud of his part in the 1982 CBS documentary that prompted the \$120 million suit.

The network paid Mr. Adams \$25,000 to become a consultant and help create "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception."

The broadcast alleged that Gen. Westmoreland, who commanded American troops in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, tried to present an optimistic view of the war by keeping enemy strength estimates in 1967 at fewer than 300,000 troops when the true figure may have been nearly twice as high.

Mr. Adams, a co-defendant in the suit, told the federal court jury yesterday that the broadcast demonstrated "how politics can affect intelligence."

"We in intelligence had tried to fool the American public," he said. "We had tried to fool the Congress. But we ended up, I think, by fooling ourselves. I think that explains in large part how we ended up losing the war."

But the broadcast "didn't go far enough," the 51-year-old Mr. Adams said, because he and CBS producer George Crile — another co-defendant — could not determine whether someone placed "political pressures" on Gen. Westmoreland to hold down enemy strength estimates.

"We went with what we had," Mr. Adams said.

The trial entered its 14th week yesterday with Mr. Adams on the stand for a second day. He described in detail his own studies of

enemy forces on the scene and the conversations with other military and CIA experts which convinced him by late 1966 that communist power had been greatly understated.

Mr. Adams left the agency in 1973, a decade after he joined it, having tried unsuccessfully to instigate an internal investigation of its performance in Vietnam. After he made his charges public in a 1975 article in Harper's magazine, the House Select Committee on Intelligence concluded that there was evidence that the military had tried to adhere to an arbitrary ceiling on enemy strength and that the CIA went along.

Mr. Adams testified that he then began working on a book, interviewing more than 200 people in the process. Work on the book was interrupted in 1980 when Mr. Crile, who had edited Mr. Adams' Harper's piece, asked him to work on the documentary, he said.

Gen. Westmoreland, 70, maintains the CBS broadcast libeled him by suggesting that he misled his superiors, including President Lyndon B. Johnson, and as a result, American forces were unprepared for the powerful communist Tet offensive in 1968.

No information was suppressed, the general says. Instead, he has argued that CBS distorted an honest disagreement among intelligence experts to create the appearance of misconduct.

Gen. Westmoreland's lawyer, Dan M. Burt, has portrayed Mr. Adams as a man who was on the losing side in that disagreement and who became obsessed with the mistaken belief that wrongdoing had occurred.

CBS correspondent Mike Wallace, who narrated the broadcast and who is the third co-defendant in the suit, attended court yesterday for the first time since before the Christmas holidays. Mr. Wallace was released from Lenox Hill Hospital last Thursday after nearly two weeks of treatment for exhaustion.